[Translation]

Appointment of State Tourism Development Corporation as Booking Agents

2196. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint the State Tourism Development Corporations as booking agents for the convenience of domestic and foreigner tourists;

(b) if so, whether the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation has been appointed as booking agent;

(c) if so, whether these corporations are being allotted booking quota accordingly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Some package tours are organised by the State Tourism Development Corporations including Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation generally on week ends by issuing passengers a package tour ticket inclusive of rail tariff, catering, sight seeing etc. For such week and package tours as finalised in consulation with Ministry of Railways, quotas have also been allotted to them in the specified trains.

[English]

IA Passenger Services

2197. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have improved or propose to improve the customer services on ground and in the Air;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon and the operating revenue of Indian Airlines during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Indin Airlines has taken various steps in the following areas to ensure improvement in the customers services both on ground and in the Air:

(i) Product improvement.

(ii) Commercial initiatives.

(iii) Passengers facilitation.

(c) The details of expenditure incurred on food services and other amenities for the passengers and operating revenue of Indian Airlines for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 (Estimated) are as under:-

Year	Expenditure on Food and other Amenities for the Passengers	Operating Revenue (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	74.99	2466.81
1996-97	76-00	2755.50

(Budget estimates)

Diversion of Chennai-Mumbai Mail to Certain Parts of Karnataka

2198. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to divert the Chennai-Mumbai Mail so that certain parts of Karnataka are included in its route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed extension of the route is likely to cost an extra rupees 60 to rupees 70 per ticket to passengers travelling by sleeper class and also the four to five hours in addition to two days take at present to complete the trains's Journeys;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to review this decision; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

International Air Service for Foreign Airlines

2199. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to streamline and make transparent the procedure of getting permit for introducing authorised International air services for foreign airlines;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) There is already an established Policy under which foreign airlines are granted traffic rights under bilateral air services agreement on the basis of reciprocity keeping in view the requirement of tourism, travel and international trade. Traffic rights are granted essentially to cater to the direct traffic between the two contracting countries.

Permission for Exploration of Mines

2200. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Government for seeking permission for the exploration of rocks, conducting survey, mining and sales in larger areas during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97; State-wise; and

(b) the number of cases cleared till December, 1996. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Mining Rights are granted by the concerned State Government in accordance with provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. However, for minerals specified in the first schedule of the MM (R&D) Act no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted by the State Government except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

The number of proposals received for prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mineral concession and the number of cases disposed of during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till December, 1996), State-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Cases received and disposed of for Mineral Concession State-wise during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and from 1.4.1996 to 31.12.1996

Name of State	Year 94-95 1.4.94 to 31.3.95		Year 95-96 1.4.95 31.3.96		Year 1996 1.4.96 to 31.12.96	
	Recd./Disd*.		Recd./Disd*.		Recd./Disd*	
1	2		3		4	
Andhra Pradesh	42	41	25	35	23	19
Assam	1	1	1	1	-	-01
Bihar	11	11	14	20	6	9
Goa	-	-	5	7	2	1
Gujarat	30	27	9	6	23	16
Haryana	3	3	4	2	-	1
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	5	-	1	1
Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	2	2	-	-
Karnataka	20	20	21	30	12	19
Madhya Pradesh	144	141	125	180	47	53
Maharashtra	3	3	17	25	13	12
Orissa	43	38	61	70	19	20
Rajasthan	19	17	29	38	23	21
Tamil Nadu	50	50	33	40	27	20
Uttar Pradesh	4	4	4	2	1	2
Kerala	1	1	2	1	-	-
Meghalaya	1	1	1	1	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	2	2	-	-
Total	374	360	360	462	196	195

*(This includes the cases Brought forward from previous year)

[Translation]

Employment of All by the Year 2002

2201. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:
JUSTIC GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Rojgar Ke Divaswapan Kab Tak' appearing in 'Jansatta' dated December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Committee on employment of the National Development Council has extended some suggestions to achieve the target fixed for providing employment to all by the year 2002 in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any concrete step is being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The National Development Council (NDC) Committee on Employment has recommended for vigorously pursuing the main elements of strategy, policies and programmes for increasing the pace of employment generation. The Eighth Plan envisages a strategy of accelerated employment generation through